REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Office Action dated April 29, 2008, for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicant has cancelled pending claims 13-16 and 30 and the withdrawn claims 17-20 (claims 21-24 having been previously cancelled) without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and amended claims 1 and 25 to clarify that which Applicant considers to be the presently-claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification.

Applicant notes that claims 4, 5 and 8-12 have been maintained in the application under withdrawn status and submit that upon allowance of a base generic claims, these claims should be rejoined to the application and also allowed as provided under MPEP 821.04 and 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 25-27, 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,965,360 to DeCaro, et al. (hereinafter "DeCaro") is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims contained herein. Applicant notes that claims 13, 14 and 30 have been cancelled herein.

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites a current-drive apparatus for a display panel. A plurality of current-drive circuits are included, each of said plurality of current-drive circuits including first and second terminals, a reference resistor connected between said first and second terminals and a reference current generation circuit responding to a voltage generated

based on the reference resistor to produce at least one internal reference current. A current source and said plurality of current-drive circuits are connected such that a current flowing through said current source becomes substantially equal to a current flowing through said reference resistor of each of said current-drive circuits, wherein a current flowing through said reference resistor in a first one of said current-drive circuits flows through said reference resistor in a second one of said current-drive circuits, and wherein said current drive circuits are coupled in series in a manner that said first terminal of a preceding one of said current drive circuits is connected to the second terminal of a succeeding one of said current-drive circuits which is adjacent to the preceding one of said current-drive circuits. Claims 2-12 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1.

Independent claim 25, as amended herein, recites a current-drive system for a display panel including first and second power source lines. A plurality of current-drive ICs are included, each of said plurality of current-drive ICs having first and second terminals and having a first resistor connected between said first and second terminals. A current source is connected to said plurality of current-drive ICs so that said ICs and said current source are connected in cascade with said first and second terminals between first and second power source lines, wherein said ICs are coupled in series between said first power source line and said current source in such a manner that the second terminal of a preceding one of said ICs is connected to the first terminal of a succeeding one of said ICs. Claims 26-29 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 25.

The DeCaro reference discloses a method of current matching in integrated circuits. In Fig. 7, DeCaro shows the driver circuit 720 electrically connected to the driver circuit 710. The drive circuit 720 is electrically connected to the driver circuit 710 through the current mirror circuit 714.

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 25 have been amended to recite the feature that each of the current-drive circuits includes first and second terminals with a reference resistor connected therebetween, and the first terminal of a preceding one of the current-drive circuits is connected to the second terminal of a succeeding one of the current-drive circuits. The current-drive circuits are thus connected to each other at the terminal connected to the reference resistor.

Applicant respectfully submits that DeCaro does not teach or fairly suggest at least the above-noted features as claimed by Applicant. Specifically, DeCaro's device presents similar problems as the related art discussed in the specification. In DeCaro's device, the current mirror circuit 714 is electrically connected to the group driver circuit 120 and the balancing circuit 200 in the driver circuit 710 at the electrical connection 716 (see Fig. 7 and col. 15, lines 8-15 of DeCaro). This electrical connection 716 is connected to the common electrical connection at points 276, 290, 292 and 248 as shown in Fig. 2 of DeCaro (see col. 18, lines 6-9 of DeCaro). Further, as is apparent from Fig. 2 of DeCaro, the electrical connections at points 276, 290, 292 and 248 are connected to gate terminal of source transistor 230, and *not* connected to the resistor 240 and 242. Thus, the driver circuit 710 is not electrically connected to the adjacent driver circuit 720 through the terminal connected to resistor. Accordingly, DeCaro does not teach or fairly suggest that the current-driver circuits are connected to each other through the terminal

connected to the reference resistor in the manner as claimed by Applicant. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 3, 6, 7, 15, 16 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeCaro in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,395 to Yatabe, et al. (hereinafter "Yatabe") is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims contained herein. Applicant notes that claims 15 and 16 have been cancelled herein.

The features of independent claims 1 and 25 are discussed above in connection with DeCaro. Claims 3, 6, 7 and 28 depend therefrom.

The Yatabe reference discloses a power source circuit, a power source for driving a liquid crystal display and a liquid crystal display device. The Office Action cites to Yatabe as disclosing that a reference resistor of a current-drive circuit located on the side of a high voltage supply is connected to the high voltage supply through a voltage adjustment resistor and a reference resistor of a current-drive circuit located on the side of a low voltage supply is connected to the current source, citing to Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 1-20 of Yatabe.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yatabe does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of the DeCaro reference with respect to Applicant's present claims. Yatabe does not disclose, nor is Yatabe cited by the Office Action in connection with, the above-noted features of Applicant's presently-claimed invention that are discussed above in addressing the DeCaro

reference. Yatabe merely discloses a power source circuit which supplies a plurality of suitable electric potentials for driving a liquid crystal display. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that neither DeCaro nor Yatabe, taken alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest at least the above-noted features as claimed by Applicant. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
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